

ANGLER GUIDE

Pomme de Terre Lake 1999

Fishing Report

The **muskellunge (muskie)** is the most notable fish species in the lake. Muskies up to 35 pounds and 48 inches in length have been documented. Muskie in the 35-40 inch size range are the most common size caught, but several larger fish are caught each year. Annual stockings of 4,000 muskellunge fingerlings will ensure anglers have a very good chance to catch a trophy fish. The best muskie angling occurs between September 15 and October 15, at water temperatures near 70 F. Success may decline as waters cool to below 50 F. Many muskie are also caught from April to June. MDC recommends anglers discontinue muskie angling when water temperatures exceed 80 F due to increased temperature related mortality of released fish. Anglers should use a heavy rod, 20-30 pound

test line and a 6 inch solid wire steel leader. Fishing large bucktails or plugs over shallow water points near stumps and vegetation, or fish attractor sites is a good approach. Muskies are particularly active under low light conditions, and may be caught throughout the day during cloudy weather. Fishing success is best early and late on clear days.

Largemouth bass angling is excellent. A few spotted bass may be caught, but they are only 10% as abundant as their largemouth relative. Largemouth bass abundance is rated as very good and fish up to 22 inches have been collected by fisheries biologists. Bass from 12-16 inches are the most abundant size.

[Black bass identification.](#)

Crappie angling is typically good if the weather conditions and lake level are normal. Black and white crappie in the 9-11 inch size range were the most abundant size observed during the fall 1998 survey conducted by MDC. Catching crappie is easiest during the April spawning period and anglers often catch larger crappie during the spring. Summer anglers will find crappie near submerged trees, and the many fish attractors placed in deep water around the lake. Fall angling may be good at summer locations, but crappie may also move onto shallow flats near old fence lines or road beds.

White bass angling has only been fair since the die-off of white bass after the 1995 spawning period. The white bass population has improved, but they are less abundant than desired. Some 11-12 inch fish were being caught during the fall of 1998.

Walleye can be found in Pomme de Terre Lake in low densities. Walleye were last stocked in 1998 but some natural reproduction sustains a limited fishery. Most walleye are caught incidentally by anglers fishing for other species.

Fish cover in the lake consists mostly of flooded timber, stumps and shoreline shrubs. Rocky points and shallow flats are more abundant in the narrower upper portion of the lake. Deep water may be found along steep bluffs, near old stream channels and by the dam. Approximately 1,500 large cedar trees and 750 christmas trees provide additional fish cover and attract fish for anglers at fifty locations throughout the lake. Anglers have experienced good fishing success at these fish attractors.

Harry S. Truman Lake 1999 (Pomme de Terre Arm)

Crappie fishing is often best during the spring spawning season, late April through early May. Spawning begins when water temperature at the nest warms to the mid-50's, and usually peaks in the low to mid-60's. Most spawning occurs in coves, but you might find crappie along any bank with woody structure. Crappies will spawn at 6-inches to over 20-feet, depending upon water clarity. The clearer the water, the deeper crappie spawn. Spawning crappies can be caught with jigs (1/32 to 1/8 ounce), minnows, or small crank baits or spinners. Jigs are preferred by most anglers. Crappie concentrate around brushpiles and standing timber.

Crappies are typically hard to catch in summer and early fall, but fishing improves during October and November. Throughout this period, crappies are in deeper water (from 15 to 30 feet) at the mouths of coves or along steeper banks and bluffs concentrating around woody structure. Anglers should fish with jigs or minnow and move often to find the fish. Some anglers have success trolling along steeper banks with small, deep-running crankbaits. By October, crappies head into shallower water again, changing location and depth frequently. This time of year fish can be located around trees, fence lines, and over old road beds.

Winter can be one of the best times for crappie fishing, if you are willing to brave the elements. Small jigs or minnows fished slowly around structure in deep water along steep banks or bluffs is usually the best method. Crappie hits can be light during winter so watch the line for movement.

Truman Lake typically has good crappie fishing year in and year out. Just over 60% of Truman's anglers fish for crappie.

White bass and **hybrid striped bass** fishing on Truman Lake is best from June through September. At this time fish are normally found in main lake areas near structure (humps, dropoffs etc.). White bass and hybrid striped bass may be caught by vertically jigging spoons or jigs, or casting and trolling crankbaits. The bulk of the diet of white and hybrid striped bass is gizzard shad so baits should imitate shad (white, silver or silver and black are good colors). Mid to late summer is also the time when white and hybrid bass begin surface feeding on schools of gizzard shad. Schools of feeding bass are located by surface activity which usually occurs early in the morning or late in the evening. Casting small surface or shallow running crankbaits, jigs, or spinners into a feeding school of white bass can produce incredible results. Catching fish on every cast or two fish per cast if jigs are tied in tandem is not uncommon. However, this type of feeding activity is unpredictable. Fall white and hybrid striped bass fishing typically involves fishing windy main lake points with deep diving crankbaits, jigs, or spinners. This activity usually starts in late September and continues into November.

Catfish - Truman Lake has good fishing for channel, blue, and flathead catfishes. Catfish fishing is usually good May through September. Anglers fish for catfish using several different methods, such as:

- By pole and line drifting shad over flats and shallow water in the evening.
- Setting trotlines next to the old river channel where the water depth abruptly changes.
- Drifting plastic jugs over the flats and shallow areas near river channels and points.

- Pole and line fishing along rip rap areas near the dam and bridge abutments when catfish are spawning in June.

- Pole and line fishing with worms on flooded, vegetated areas when the lake is high.
- Pole and line fishing or setting trotlines near the mouths of feeder creeks following heavy rains.

Popular baits for channel catfish are whole, small shad, cut adult shad, and prepared baits; for blue catfish shad, cut shad, and live baits; and live baits (sunfish less than 5" or goldfish) are best for flathead catfish.

More detailed information concerning management, sampling data, and stocking rates, of both Pomme de Terre and Truman lakes are available by contacting MDC's West Central Regional Office in Clinton, MO (660)885-6981 (Pomme de Terre Lake) or MDC's Sedalia Office.

(660)530-5500 (Truman Lake).

Fishing regulations for both Pomme de Terre and Truman lakes are listed in [Table BC06](#). Regulation changes have been proposed to increase the minimum length limit of paddlefish from 24 to 34 inches, from the eye to the fork of the tail. Regulations changes have also been proposed for a state wide minimum length limit for walleye of 15-inches. A complete listing of rules and regulations can be found in the Wildlife Code of Missouri.

HARRY S TRUMAN RESERVOIR

POMME de TERRE ARM

Crappie

Good crappie fishing is often found during the spring spawning season. Late April through early May usually is best. Spawning begins when water temperature at the nest warms to the mid-50's, and usually peaks in the low to mid-60's. Most spawning occurs in coves or near their mouths, but you might find crappie along any bank with a gravel or woody structure. Crappies will spawn at 6-inch to over 20-foot depths, depending upon the water clarity. The clearer the water, the deeper they spawn. Spawning crappies can be caught with jigs (1/32 to 1/8 ounce), minnows, or small crank baits or spinners. Jigs are preferred by most anglers. Fish brushpiles and standing timber where crappies concentrate. During spring, you might find crappie grouped off the bank around brushy structure and suspended at about the same depth as other spawning fish.

Crappies are typically hard to catch in summer and early fall, but fishing improves during October and November. Throughout this period, crappies are in deeper water (from 15 to 30 feet) at the mouths of coves or along steeper banks and bluffs. They still like to concentrate around woody structure. Fish with jigs or minnow, moving often to find the fish. Some anglers have success trolling along steeper banks with small, deep-running crankbaits. By October, crappies head into shallower water again, changing location and depth frequently. In addition to the steeper banks, try fishing around points.

Winter can be one of the best times for crappie fishing, if you're willing to brave the elements. Small jigs or minnows fished slowly around structure in deep water along steep banks or bluffs is usually the best method. Crappie hits can be light during winter so watch for line movement.

Truman Lake regulations for crappie are 9-inch minimum length limit and 15 daily. Truman Lake typically has good crappie fishing. High angler harvest in previous years has decreased the numbers of legal fish. This is a reflection of the heavy fishing pressure, as just over 60% of the anglers are crappie anglers.

White Bass and Hybrid Striped Bass

Reservoir white bass and hybrid striped bass fishing on Truman Lake is best from June through September. At this time fish are normally found in main lake areas near some kind of underwater structures (e.g., underwater humps, treelines etc.) or near drop-offs just outside flats and humps. White bass and hybrid striped bass may be caught by vertically jigging spoons or jigs, casting or trolling with crankbaits. Something to keep in mind is that the bulk of the diet of white and hybrid striped bass is gizzard shad so your baits should imitate shad (white, silver or silver and black are good colors). Mid to late summer is also the time when white and hybrid bass begin surface feeding on schools of gizzard shad. Schools of feeding bass are located by surface activity which usually occurs early in the morning or late in the evening. Casting small surface or shallow running crankbaits, jigs, or spinners into a feeding

school of white bass can give incredible results. Catching fish on every cast or two fish per cast if jigs are tied in tandem is not uncommon. This type of feeding activity is somewhat unpredictable. Fall white and hybrid striped bass fishing typically involves fishing windy main lake points with deep diving crankbaits, jigs, or spinners. This activity usually starts in September and continues into November.

Truman Lake regulations for white bass and hybrid striped bass are 15 daily in the aggregate, no more than 4 daily can be larger than 18 inches. Truman Lake typically has good white bass and hybrid striped bass fishing.

Catfish

Truman Lake has good catfish fishing for channel, blue, and flathead catfish. Catfishing is usually good in May through September. Anglers fish for catfish using several different methods, such as:

- Drifting with pole and line in the evenings over flats and shallow areas with shad.
- Setting trotlines next to the old river channel where the water depth changes abruptly from deep to shallow.
- Drifting jugs over the flats and shallow areas near the main channel and off points.
- Fishing rip rap areas along the dam and bridge abutments in June when catfish are spawning.
- And fishing with worms in vegetation on flooded flats when the lake is high.

Popular baits for channel catfish are shad, cut shad, and prepared baits; for blue catfish they are shad, cut shad, and live baits; and live baits (sunfish less than 5" or goldfish) are best for flathead catfish. Truman Lake regulations for channel and blue catfish are 10 daily in the aggregate and 5 daily for flathead catfish. Truman Lake typically has good catfish fishing.